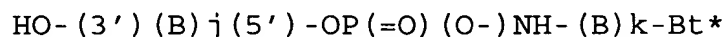


In the Claims

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

~~18.~~ (Twice amended) An oligonucleotide probe of the formula:



wherein:

B is a nucleotide or an analog thereof;

j is in the range of from 1 to 12;

k is in the range of from [0] 1 to 12, such that the sum of j and k is less than or equal to 12;

Bt\* is a labeled, non-extendable chain-terminating moiety.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks. Claim 18 has been amended. Claims 18 and 19 are pending. Claim 19 stands allowed.

I. Amendments

The specification has been amended to add the subject matter of claims 18 and 19 to the summary of the invention. Support for the amendment can be found in claims 18 and 19 as originally filed. Pending claim 18 has been amended to recite that the variable "k" has a value of from 1 to 12. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification on pages 12-14, and Example 2 at pages 23-24, for example, from which it is clear that the applicant contemplated, and was "in possession of," probes wherein the variable "k" has a non-zero value from 1 to 12. No new matter is added by any of the amendments.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 18 was rejected as lacking novelty in view of Lavina et al., which was cited as teaching oligos having N-linked azido-benzamido groups. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is moot in light of the present amendment to claim 18, wherein k is 1 to 12. Nowhere does Lavina et al. teach an oligonucleotide probe of the formula:

